

To-day's Advertisements.

HONGKONG HOTEL.
NOTICE.

M. and Mrs. TUCKER (from the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool), have been appointed MANAGER and MATRON of the Hotel from this date.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
R. LYALL,
Secretary.

Hongkong, April 29, 1890.

FURNISHED or UNFURNISHED.
(With Immediate Possession.)

A SIX-ROOMED HOUSE at the Peak.

Apply to
DENNIS & MOSSOP,
49 & 51, Queen's Road.

Hongkong, April 29, 1890.

TO BE LET.

FIRST FLOOR of No. 3, BLUE BUILDINGS—From 1st June.

Apply to
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., Ltd.

Victoria Buildings,
Hongkong, April 29, 1890.

FOR SALE.

A Semi-Grand PIANO, by COLLARD & COLLARD. Made expressly for the climate.

Apply to
LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

Hongkong, April 29, 1890.

HONGKONG HIGH LEVEL TRAMWAYS COMPANY, Ltd.

SUMMER TIME TABLE.
(To take effect from 1st May.)

WEEK DAYS.
8 a.m. to 10 a.m. every quarter of an hour.
12 noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m., 9 p.m., 10 p.m., 11 p.m., 12 m.

THURSDAYS.
8 a.m. to 10 a.m. every quarter of an hour.
12 noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m., 9 p.m., 10 p.m., 11 p.m., 12 m.

SUNDAYS.
8 a.m. to 10 a.m. every quarter of an hour.
12 noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m., 7 p.m., 8 p.m., 9 p.m., 10 p.m., 11 p.m., 12 m.

Special CARS may be obtained on application to the SUPERINTENDENT.

Single Tickets are sold in the Cars; First-Class Coupons and Reduced Tickets at the Office.

MACLEWEN, FRICKEL & Co.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, April 29, 1890.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions to Sell by Public Auction, on

TUESDAY,

the 5th May, 1890, at 2 p.m., at his Sales Rooms, Queen's Road—

SUNDY HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, &c., &c.

TAPESTRY-COVERED DRAWING-ROOM SUITE, MARBLE-TOP ROUND CENTRE TABLE, BEVELLED GLASS MANTEL-Piece, MIRRORS, PICTURES and ORNAMENTS.

DINING TABLE, SIDEBOARD with GLASSWARE, CHEFFONIER, WARDROBE, BREAKFAST SETS, GLASS and PLATED WARE, DOUBLE and SINGLE IRON BEDSTEADS, BRASS MOUNTED, WARDROBES with BEVELLED GLASS-DOORS, ORIENTAL DRAWERS, LADIES' DRESSING, TOILET TABLE with BEVELLED GLASS and MARBLE-TOP WARDROBE.

A COTTAGE PIANO, by J. Broadwood & Sons.

ONE JINRIKSHA, &c., &c.

TERMS OF SALE.—As customary.

J. M. ARMSTRONG,
Auctioneer.

Hongkong, April 29, 1890.

Occidental & Oriental Steam-Ship Company.

TAKING CARGO AND PASSENGERS TO JAPAN, THE UNITED STATES, MEXICO, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, AND EUROPE, VIA

THE OVERLAND RAILWAYS, AND ATLANTIC & OTHER CONNECTING STEAMERS.

THE Steamship OCEANIC will be despatched for San Francisco, via Yokohama, on THURSDAY, the 2nd May, at 1 p.m.

Connection being made at Yokohama, with Steamers from Shanghai and Japan ports.

All Parcel Packages should be marked to arrive in full; and same will be received at the Company's Office, until 5 p.m. the day previous to sailing.

First-class fares granted as follows:—

To San Francisco and return, available for 6 months ... \$39.75

To Liverpool ... 325.00

To London ... 330.00

To other European ports at proportionate rates. Special reduced rates granted to Officers of the Army, Navy, Civil Service, and the Imperial Customs, to be obtained on application.

Passengers by this line have the option of proceeding overland by the Southern Pacific and connecting Lines, Central Pacific, Northern Pacific or Canadian Pacific Railways.

Passengers, who have paid full fare, re-embarking at San Francisco for China or Japan (or vice versa) within one year will be allowed a discount of 10%. This allowance does not apply to through fares from China and Japan to Europe.

Cargoes to be accompanied by Cargo Agents, who should be sent to the Company's Office, addressed to the Collector of Customs, San Francisco.

For further information as to Freight or Passage, apply to the Agency of the Company, No. 60, Queen's Road Central.

O. D. HARMAN,
Agent.

Hongkong, April 29, 1890.

Business Notices.

HONGKONG TRADING COMPANY, LD.
(LATE THE HALL & HOLTZ CO-OPERATIVE CO., LTD.)

SPECIAL SHOW.

Summer Goods

FOR LADIES' & CHILDREN'S WEAR, including:—A Splendid Variety of NEW ZEPHYRS, WASHING SILKS, PRINTS, NEW VELVETS, &c., in all the most Fashionable Patterns and Shades. NEW FANCY GOODS of every description just to hand.

NOTE.—By S.S. Glenlogie, We shall receive a large Stock of FASHIONABLE MILLINERY from PARIS, both TRIMMED and UNTRIMMED, and the LATEST NOVELTIES for SUMMER SEASON.

HONGKONG TRADING COMPANY, LD.
(LATE THE HALL & HOLTZ CO-OPERATIVE CO., LTD.)

Shanghai April 27, at 4 p.m., Mails and General.—Messageries MARITIMES.

Pha Chua Chom Kiao, British steamer, 1,011 A. Benson, Bangkok April 28, Rice and General.—Yuen Fat Hong.

Shanghai, British steamer, from Whampoa.

Forwards, German steamer, from Whampoa.

DEPARTURES.

April 29.—

Landolt, for Surabaya.

Daphne, for Singapore and Hamburg.

Taiyang, for Whampoa.

Yehou, for Shanghai.

Yehou, for Saigon.

Yehou, for Bangkok.

Yehou, for Yokohama and San Francisco.

Yehou, for Amoy.

Yehou, for Hongkong.

Yehou, for Shanghai.

Yehou, for Saigon.

Yehou, for Bangkok.

Yehou, for Yokohama and San Francisco.

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Yehou, for Saigon.

Yehou, for Bangkok.

Yehou, for Yokohama and San Francisco.

MEMOS. FOR TO-MORROW.

Shipping.

Neon.—Nanning leaves for Manila, &c.

Neon.—Arcton leaves for Straits and Calcutta.

Auctions.

2.30 p.m.—Auction of Household Furniture, at the Residence of Mr. E. A. Morgan, No. 1, Albany.

Meeting.

4 p.m.—Meeting of Shareholders of the Suikei Koyah Planting Company, Ltd., at the Company's Registered Office.

Vol. XVII.—No. 4.

'CHINA REVIEW'

WILL BE READY

TO-MORROW.

BY APPOINTMENT.

A. S. WATSON & COMPANY, LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

MANUFACTURERS OF

AERATED WATERS.

OUR AERATED WATER

MANUFACTORY

is replete with the best Machinery, embodying all the latest improvements in the trade.

THE greatest attention has been paid to appliances for ensuring purity in the Water supply, to secure which we have added a Condenser capable of supplying with 3,000 gallons of distilled water a day, and are now in a position to compete in quality with the best English makers. Our Sweet Waters cannot be surpassed anywhere.

The purest ingredients only are used, and the utmost care and cleanliness are used in the manufacture throughout.

LARGE BOMBAY 'SODAS.'

We continue to supply large bottles as heretofore, free of Extra Charge, to those of our Customers who prefer to have them to the ordinary size.

COAST PORT ORDERS, whenever practicable, are despatched by first steamer leaving after receipt of order.

For Coast Ports, Waters are packed and placed on board ship at Hongkong and elsewhere, and the full amount allowed for Packages and Expenses when received in good order.

Counterfoil Order Books supplied on application.

Our Registered Telegraphic Address is, 'DISPENSARY, HONGKONG.'

And all signed messages addressed thus will receive prompt attention.

The following is a List of Waters always kept ready in Stock:—

PURE AERATED WATER.

SODA WATER.

LEMONADE.

POTASH WATER.

SELTER WATER.

LITHIA WATER.

SARSAPARILLA WATER.

ROXIC WATER.

GINGER ALE.

GINGERADE.

No Credit given for bottles that are dirty, or greasy, or that appear to have been used for any other purpose than that of containing Aerated Waters, as such bottles are never used again by us.

A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd.,
2201 Hongkong China, and Manila.

DEATH.

At Tamsui, Formosa, on the 2nd April, 1890, SOPHIE MARSHALL, the beloved wife of Francis Aschlin.

The publication of this issue commenced at 7.50 p.m.

The China Mail.

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 1890.

SHANGHAI RACES.

SPRING MEETING, 1890.

First Day, Monday, April 28th 1890.

THE HART LEGACY CUP.—1

THE CRITERION STAKES.—1

THE GRIFPERS' PLATE.—1

THE CATHAY CUP.—1

THE JOCKEY CUP.—1

THE KIANG-SI PLATE.—1

THE ROYAL STAKES.—1

THE WAGGERS' PLATE.—1

THE FIRST TYPHOON.

We have been anxiously supplied with the following telegram received to-day by the Spanish Consul from Bolinao:—There is a depression in the Pacific, S.S.E. of Luzon.

STRANDING OF THE ULYSSES.

(N.C. Dai's News.)

Yokohama, 24th April, 6.15 p.m.

The steamer Ulysses of Holt's Line left here on Sunday for Kobe. She ran ashore in the Kii Channel during a fog, and has a hole in her bottom. The steamer Mogul has gone to her assistance. All safe on board.

The war of freights amongst the various local steamship companies promises to be more lively. We hear that Li Hing-chang has taken a very strong position with reference to the matter. Some time ago a long despatch was written to him on the matter, to which he has replied by telegram to the effect that the China Merchants Company can borrow a million taels free of interest from the Government if necessary to carry on the fight against the foreign companies.—Shanghai Mercury.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

JARRIED SUEZ CANAL.

OUTWARD BOUND:—Africah, April 8; Glenlogie, Balmores Brook, 11; Denchong, Zensu, 12; Kaitum, 13; Kaitum, 14; Kaitum, 15; Kaitum, 16; Kaitum, 17; Kaitum, 18; Kaitum, 19; Kaitum, 20; Kaitum, 21; Kaitum, 22; Kaitum, 23; Kaitum, 24; Kaitum, 25; Kaitum, 26; Kaitum, 27; Kaitum, 28; Kaitum, 29; Kaitum, 30; Kaitum, 31; Kaitum, 32; Kaitum, 33; Kaitum, 34; Kaitum, 35; Kaitum, 36; Kaitum, 37; Kaitum, 38; Kaitum, 39; Kaitum, 40; Kaitum, 41; Kaitum, 42; Kaitum, 43; Kaitum, 44; Kaitum, 45; Kaitum, 46; Kaitum, 47; Kaitum, 48; Kaitum, 49; Kaitum, 50; Kaitum, 51; Kaitum, 52; Kaitum, 53; Kaitum, 54; Kaitum, 55; Kaitum, 56; Kaitum, 57; Kaitum, 58; Kaitum, 59; Kaitum, 60; Kaitum, 61; Kaitum, 62; Kaitum, 63; Kaitum, 64; Kaitum, 65; Kaitum, 66; Kaitum, 67; Kaitum, 68; Kaitum, 69; Kaitum, 70; Kaitum, 71; Kaitum, 72; Kaitum, 73; Kaitum, 74; Kaitum, 75; Kaitum, 76; Kaitum, 77; Kaitum, 78; Kaitum, 79; Kaitum, 80; Kaitum, 81; Kaitum, 82; Kaitum, 83; Kaitum, 84; Kaitum, 85; Kaitum, 86; Kaitum, 87; Kaitum, 88; Kaitum, 89; Kaitum, 90; Kaitum, 91; Kaitum, 92; Kaitum, 93; Kaitum, 94; Kaitum, 95; Kaitum, 96; Kaitum, 97; Kaitum, 98; Kaitum, 99; Kaitum, 100; Kaitum, 101; Kaitum, 102; Kaitum, 103; Kaitum, 104; Kaitum, 105; Kaitum, 106; Kaitum, 107; Kaitum, 108; Kaitum, 109; Kaitum, 110; Kaitum, 111; Kaitum, 112; Kaitum, 113; Kaitum, 114; Kaitum, 115; Kaitum, 116; Kaitum, 117; Kaitum, 118; Kaitum, 119; Kaitum, 120; Kaitum, 121; Kaitum, 122; Kaitum, 123; Kaitum, 124; Kaitum, 125; Kaitum, 126; Kaitum, 127; Kaitum, 128; Kaitum, 129; Kaitum, 130; Kaitum, 131; Kaitum, 132; Kaitum, 133; Kaitum, 134; Kaitum, 135; Kaitum, 136; Kaitum, 137; Kaitum, 138; Kaitum, 139; Kaitum, 140; Kaitum, 141; Kaitum, 142; Kaitum, 143; Kaitum, 144; Kaitum, 145; Kaitum, 146; Kaitum, 147; Kaitum, 148; Kaitum, 149; Kaitum, 150; Kaitum, 151; Kaitum, 152; Kaitum, 153; Kaitum, 154; Kaitum, 155; Kaitum, 156; Kaitum, 157; Kaitum, 158; Kaitum, 159; Kaitum, 160; Kaitum, 161; Kaitum, 162; Kaitum, 163; Kaitum, 164; Kaitum, 165; Kaitum, 166; Kaitum, 167; Kaitum, 168; Kaitum, 169; Kaitum, 170; Kaitum, 171; Kaitum, 172; Kaitum, 173; Kaitum, 174; Kaitum, 175; Kaitum, 176; Kaitum, 177; Kaitum, 178; Kaitum, 179; Kaitum, 180; Kaitum, 181; Kaitum, 182; Kaitum, 183; Kaitum, 184; Kaitum, 185; Kaitum, 186; Kaitum, 187; Kaitum, 188; Kaitum, 189; Kaitum, 190; Kaitum, 191; Kaitum, 192; Kaitum, 193; Kaitum, 194; Kaitum, 195; Kaitum, 196; Kaitum, 197; Kaitum, 198; Kaitum, 199; Kaitum, 200; Kaitum, 201; Kaitum, 202; Kaitum, 203; Kaitum, 204; Kaitum, 205; Kaitum, 206; Kaitum, 207; Kaitum, 208; Kaitum, 209; Kaitum, 210; Kaitum, 211; Kaitum, 212; Kaitum, 213; Kaitum, 214; Kaitum, 215; Kaitum, 216; Kaitum, 217; Kaitum, 218; Kaitum, 219; Kaitum, 220; Kaitum, 221; Kaitum, 222; Kaitum, 223; Kaitum, 224; Kaitum, 225; Kaitum, 226; Kaitum, 227; Kaitum, 228; Kaitum, 229; Kaitum, 230; Kaitum, 231; Kaitum, 232; Kaitum, 233; Kaitum, 234; Kaitum, 235; Kaitum, 236; Kaitum, 237; Kaitum, 238; Kaitum, 239; Kaitum, 240; Kaitum, 241; Kaitum, 242; Kaitum, 243; Kaitum, 244; Kaitum, 245; Kaitum, 246; Kaitum, 247; Kaitum, 248; Kaitum, 249; Kaitum, 250; Kaitum, 251; Kaitum, 252; Kaitum, 253; Kaitum, 254; Kaitum, 255; Kaitum, 256; Kaitum, 257; Kaitum, 258; Kaitum, 259; Kaitum, 260; Kaitum, 261; Kaitum, 262; Kaitum, 263; Kaitum, 264; Kaitum, 265; Kaitum, 266; Kaitum, 267; Kaitum, 268

has just remarked, for proceeding with the other bill appearing in the course of the day, namely, the Magistrates Bill. In regard to this measure, I think it is only right to state to the Council that we have got through very little of it as yet, and I fear, it being a lengthy bill, that it will take us a very considerable time before we reach the end of it. It is necessary at the same time that we should continue with the other business before the Council, and there are some ordinances of importance to come very shortly before us. In these circumstances, what I propose to do is this: for the present at all events, to have two sittings a week; one sitting entirely reserved for the consideration of the Magistrates Bill and the other set aside for such other business as may come before us. I would suggest that for the future we should sit on Mondays in order to consider the Magistrates Bill, and that we should deal with the other business on such other day of the week as is most convenient, bearing in mind the departure of the mails. I believe next month there will be a difference in the day of the week on which the mail leaves, and we can fix a different day for meeting as to suit the public convenience. At present we shall adjourn till Monday at two o'clock, when we shall deal with the Magistrates Bill. I need not say that such unofficial members as can attend I shall be most happy to see, but I know they have other business to attend to, and I think therefore it will be to their convenience, to set aside this one day of the week for the consideration of this measure and deal with the other business on a subsequent day of the week.

The Council then adjourned till Monday next at 2 p.m.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the adjournment of the Council, the Acting Colonial Secretary presiding.

The Chairman, with reference to the vote of £200 for an additional clerk and interpreter at the Harbour Office, said that for a quarter of a century the duties had been performed by a Indian Sergeant named Soonderson, but he died recently and there was no Constable or Sergeant in the Police Force able to do the work of interpreting.

The vote was passed.

The Chairman said the next vote was a sum of \$120 to be paid to the comrade in the General Post Office. The item was omitted from the Estimates by oversight, and it was agreed that the man should have a house allowance. The Committee were asked to repair the omission.

The Postmaster General said the man was engaged at a salary of \$40 a month and had been living in the Post Office premises. As he would much rather continue to live there, this was really an addition to his salary. He (the Postmaster General) therefore thought it ought to be added, and so that they might not keep up the fiction of paying house allowance.

The Chairman said as the question of house allowance was specially approved of in a despatch by the Secretary of State, he would suggest that this matter be postponed.

Agreed.

The Chairman said the vote of \$21.70, as a refund of municipal rates on two Chinese houses in Kowloon, arose through a mistake on the part of the Valuator. It was proved to the satisfaction of the Council that an injustice would be done if the houses were charged on the existing valuation.

Mr. Charter asked what the special circumstances of the case were, and remarked that if this were to be taken as a precedent a good many applications of the same kind might be made.

The Chairman said a mistake had been made owing to some alterations in the property and the case was one about which there could be no doubt. The property was a small house on the island during the time in which it was open to the public and was charged on the existing valuation.

The Chairman then proposed that the vote of \$160, as salary for a sheriff in the money order office from 1st May, be passed.

Agreed.

The vote of \$228, as a gratuity to the children of Police Sergeant Soonderson, deceased, was also passed. The Chairman explaining that the allowance was calculated on the basis of one month's pay for every two years' service.

The Chairman said the last vote was one of \$1,329.73, for new moorings for the buoy at Bokhara Rocks. Originally the moorings were put down by the naval authorities and were then taken over by the Colonial Government. No vote of the Council had been taken on the matter for a long time. The cables were bought from the Naval Yard.

Mr. Charter asked what rate of exchange this was to be paid.

The Chairman said the dollar was calculated at 3/6, the Government rate, but if they could induce the Naval authorities to give them better terms they should do so. He thought they should probably take the rate of exchange as it was when the cables were laid down.

The vote was passed.

There was no other business.

REPORT OF THE BOTANICAL AFForestation DEPARTMENT.

The following are a few of the most interesting paragraphs in the report of Mr. Charles Ford, Superintendent of the Botanical and Afforestation Department, which was laid on the table of the Legislative Council this afternoon:—

ROAD PLANTING.

46. As soon as the formation of Lower Richmond Road was sufficiently advanced it was planted along its whole length with trees on one side, the road not being wide enough to permit of two rows being planted. Upper Richmond Road was planted in 1888. The planting of these two new roads has completed the planting of all the roads in that locality which are suitable for the introduction of trees.

47. Steps have also been taken for the planting of such of the country as is known as it was considered advisable should be done this year.

48. Kowloon is now provided fairly well with trees, taking into consideration those in private grounds, those in Robinson Road, which is in an orchard, and those which this department has planted on the lands south and north of the ridge, and which have with their development so greatly increased the once sterile and treeless aspect of the hills to a scene of greater verdure.

49. As a rule the older roads and streets of the Colony in or immediately adjacent to the city were not apparently laid out with consideration being given to the requirements of trees which were subsequently introduced when the inhabitants found how intolerable was the absence of trees in our hot glaring tropical summer. The trees which were planted and maintained at great cost and with much care have developed in spite of the disadvantages of cramped space for growth of head and roots into objects of beauty which are a great shade affording relief from the burning

sun and intense glare and heat which was experienced before the introduction of trees. Many trees have yearly to be sacrificed to make room for extensions of buildings, which, however, in many cases, provide in themselves a partial substitute for the trees. It is only necessary to picture what scene streets and roads without trees would be to insure the most careful guardianship of what has been attained in spite of considerable difficulties. There may be some disadvantages which follow in the wake of trees, but the innumerable advantages will be generally considered to far outweigh them.

50. In places where land may not be too valuable for such a purpose it would be very desirable for the sake of further extension of tree planting in roads if it were possible that future new ones could be made of sufficient width to allow the possibility of a moderate regular development of the heads of the trees on all sides, instead of, as at present, extension on the side next buildings being so much restricted. The result of this one-sidedness is that as trees develop they are gradually dragged down by the weight of the head from an upright position to one inclining over the roadway, the incline in time becoming so great that for safety limbs have to be cut off and ultimately, in many cases, entire trees have to be removed.

THINNING PLANTATIONS AND REMOVAL OF BRUSHWOOD.

51. The thinning of plantations was confined to the few first months of the year, the usual work of the latter end of the season having been postponed to this year, therefore, the number of trees thinned was relatively small. At the present time something like 40,000 trees require removal for the benefit of the permanent ones.

52. Removal of brushwood or undergrowth, as usual, being conducted throughout the year, this work now giving almost continuous employment to a gang of men. The work is generally performed by a small number of men, but a small income is obtained from the sale of the brushwood. There are some exceptions to this, such as where the undergrowth is not large enough to be of saleable value, in which cases the work is performed by the forestry staff in the intervals between other more important work.

53. Some alarm, which from my experience, I cannot but regard as unnecessary, seems to have been allowed to have had some disturbing influence in some quarters in regard to what is called undergrowth. The origin of the alarm may have been associated with dense undergrowth which exists in other countries under conditions widely differing from those prevailing in Hongkong, what little there is of undergrowth here being connected with attendant evil effects of that of some other countries without making due allowance for circumstances here which counteract or reduce to a harmless minimum results injurious to health which are attendant on excessive vegetation under some certain conditions.

54. In tropical places where vegetation is extremely luxuriant and where the land on which it grows is comparatively flat and fertile there is often a mass of decaying vegetable which is undoubtedly injurious to animal life. In Hongkong, however, the soil is, as a rule, comparatively dry, and of it is excessively sterile, and the configuration of the island is such that the excessive summer rainfall washes away most of the vegetable matter which has been separated by rotting decay from shrubs or trees, and which therefore has no opportunity to lodge on the ground and in the process of decay produce an unhealthy atmosphere.

55. The vegetation of this region being of such a character that but little is shed periodically, and the hills of the island being covered with a dense growth of vegetation, the decay of vegetable matter which reaches the stage of unhealthy decay, or scrub in themselves, will not, on due consideration being given to the subject, be blamed, when the chemical analysis of the leaves of plants is considered, for imparting to the air the character to a neighbourhood, but so long as there is no undue accumulation of decaying vegetation, an abundance of trees and shrubs should be beneficial to the air and admission of light is not impeded by them.

THE REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF FIRE-BRIGADE FOR 1889.

THE VALUE OF FIRE INSURANCE.

The following report was laid on the table of the Legislative Council this afternoon:—

Fire Brigade Department, Hongkong, 28th Feb., 1890.

Sir, I have the honour to report that during the year ending 31st December, 1889, there were twenty-one fires at which fifteen houses were totally destroyed and thirteen houses partially damaged.

2. The value of the property destroyed calculated on the amount of insurance effected and a view of the premises subsequent to the fires is estimated at \$20,400.

3. The return shows a considerable decrease in the number of fires as compared with that of the years 1887 and 1888, the number for those years respectively being thirty-five and forty-five, the diminution being possibly due to the proceedings under the Fire Insurance Ordinance and to the greater caution in the issue of Fire Policies.

4. Of the fires that took place seventeen formed the subject of official enquiry under the Ordinance, with the result, generally speaking, that there were either grave or no satisfactory explanation of the cause of fire was forthcoming. As a rule the suspicious circumstances were too negative in character to warrant a prosecution, and during the year only one such prosecution was ordered, and even this was not further than a commitment for trial and terminated in a *nolle prosequi*.

5. Whatever may be the moral effect of these enquiries, of which one can only judge hypothetically, by comparing the number of fires before and after the institution of them, I am strongly of opinion that they are most necessary, and that they apply a want which had long been felt.

6. Where the fire is accidental it must be gratifying to the owner of the premises that its accidental origin should be official, and where it is the result of a crime it is important in the interests of the public that the matter should be exhaustively investigated.

7. As to whether or not the Ordinance requires improvement I do not wish to speak positively. I cordially think that a complete re-arrangement of the way of effecting prosecution by the inability to establish in a prosecution the depositions that have been taken in an enquiry, and one also feels the want of some kind of provision by which upon a formal finding on the part of the Magistrate that the circumstances are grossly negligent, the Insurance Company should be thereby prohibited from satisfying claims until they have been made good to the satisfaction of a Court after consideration of the facts adduced at the enquiry.

8. Whether the establishment of the Observatory has effected an improvement on the system of storm-warnings which previously existed, and what measures could be taken to secure or to increase improvement in this direction.

9. The causes of failure, if any, in the system of storm-warnings as worked from the Observatory. What caused led to the absence of warning of the storm of October 15-16.

10. The practical advantages of the Commission of this Colony obtained from the Observatory as at present established, and how such advantages may be increased.

11. What proportion of the time of the Director and Staff of the Observatory is occupied in securing these practical advantages, as compared with time devoted to the general advancement of science, the Commission regret that owing to the deplorable and lengthened detention of Mr. Figg, the First Assistant at the Observatory, in hospital from a severe climatic illness, they have been unable to carry their enquiries as far as they would have desired, but it is plain that the equatorial transit telescope has not been used for a long period, and probably the refusal of His Excellency the Governor to permit the printing at public expense of Dr. Dübner's brochure on Double Stars (C. S. 2241-37, App. B.) led to the almost entire abandonment of researches connected with the general advancement of science. Dr. Dübner in answer to question 7 states that 'no time whatever is spent in the advancement of science, and the only time is spent in doing the work for which the Observatory was established' (C. S. 740—86, App. C).

12. As to point (6) whether the present expenditure on the Observatory is justified in view of the practical advantages above referred to, I consider that the provision of a direct cable across the Harbour to secure regularity of communication and the cost of working and maintaining it, was a justifiable expense; and whether further expenditure in the same direction (e.g. in payments to Bolinas and Sagor, and in the purchase of instruments) would appear that a great deal of useful work is done at the Observatory, but that the beneficial outcome of this work is diminished by the inadequate staff that has been allowed to be spent upon it. The annual cost of the upkeep of the Observatory was originally estimated at ten thousand dollars, but only seven thousand dollars has been spent. An Observatory is essentially one of these Institutions in which, if thoroughly good results are to be obtained, a considerable sum of money must be spent; the expenditure on the direct cable is therefore a justifiable expense. The further extension of the utility of the Observatory by placing it in communication with other places from which valuable information could be obtained, probably be effected rather by the courtesy of diplomacy than by the further expenditure of money. It is desirable that three more stations outside the Colony should be placed in communication with the Observatory; namely, the South Cape of Formosa, Sagor, and Bolinas.

13. The Commission addressed a letter to the Consul for Spain, inviting him to communicate to the Commission any information in his possession regarding the interchange which takes place between Hongkong and Manila in respect to the meteorological and other scientific observations which may be taken at the Capital of the Philippines, but they regret to say that, notwithstanding his attention was requested to this communication, no reply has been received from him. The importance of Manila and Sagor as stations for the exchange of meteorological and other scientific observations which may be taken at the Capital of the Philippines, but they regret to say that, notwithstanding his attention was requested to this communication, no reply has been received from him.

14. The Commission have much pleasure in recording the existence of a cordial co-operation with the Laboratory of the Observatory on the part of the Authorities at Bolinas, Wladivostok, Tokio, Nagasaki, Shanghai, Amoy, Haiphong, Macao, Malacca and Amoy.

15. As to point (6) whether the Commission would be justified in recommending the Observatory with its present or any other organization, the consideration of the evidence and of the documents forwarded for its information leads to the conclusion that it is desirable that the Observatory should be continued, but it is clear that the only way in which this conclusion can be rendered thoroughly efficient is by sanctioning a much larger annual expenditure. The increased staff that has been found to be essential would involve a greater outlay, and the annual cost cannot be estimated at less than the sum now spent. Every effort should be made to secure the fullest information from these sources.

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missions would here desire to draw special attention to the very valuable report sent by Major-General Fyfe, in whose conclusions they are in the main concur. (Appendix A.) But whilst paying every tribute to Dr. Dübner's scientific qualifications, the Commission cannot but regret that the correspondence laid before them shows that he is at times disposed to place unnecessary difficulties in the way of the solution of matters connected with the practical working of the Observatory.

17. The further question as to how such advantages can be increased has been answered in detail in the report upon point (1).

18. As to point (4) what proportion of the time of the Director and Staff of the Observatory is occupied in securing those practical advantages, as compared with time devoted to the general advancement of science, the Commission regret that owing to the deplorable and lengthened detention of Mr. Figg, the First Assistant at the Observatory, in hospital from a severe climatic illness, they have been unable to carry their enquiries as far as they would have desired, but it is plain that the equatorial transit telescope has not been used for a long period, and probably the refusal of His Excellency the Governor to permit the printing at public expense of Dr. Dübner's brochure on Double Stars (C. S. 2241-37, App. B.) led to the almost entire abandonment of researches connected with the general advancement of science. Dr. Dübner in answer to question 7 states that 'no time whatever is spent in the advancement of science, and the only time is spent in doing the work for which the Observatory was established' (C. S. 740—86, App. C).

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wager is a person of extraordinary force, very well preserved, his features denoting great strength of will.

"The most striking characteristic of the whole cortege was the inexpressible freshness of everything, so different from ordinary Oriental processions. Everything was clean, neat, or at least newly done up: chairs, carts, harness and accoutrements, the uniforms of the troops, &c. The mules and horses were also very elegant. The procession, which numbered more than 10,000 men, had an air of brilliancy and splendour which we are little accustomed to.

"During the absence of the Imperial family, the care of the palace was entrusted to the Governor of the City, Fu Chung-tung, and the outer walls were surrounded by Tartar soldiers who lived under tents.

"The Railway question was brought up in the conference which took place between the Seventh Prince and Viceroy Li, but only to receive the coup de grâce for the time being. The death of the Marquis Tseu is alleged to be the immediate occasion of the postponement of the further consideration of the subject, and one pretext may serve as well as another.

"The Imperial Decree referring to the death of the Marquis Tseu expresses appreciation of his services and character in terms of unusual force and fairness.

Quotations.

HONGKONG, April 29.

PIC-M-Nov Patna, cash	485
"Old	cash
"New Bonanza, cash	482
"Old	cash
"Old Malva, cash	520/300
"Allowance, Tseu	16/2
"Persian, Old, cash	520/300
"Allowance, Tseu	16/2
"Persian, Paper, cash	520/300
"Allowance, Tseu	16/2

Exchange.

HONGKONG, April 29.

